





King County
 Department of Natural Resources and Parks
 Solid Waste Division

Class Act

School Recycling Program Newsletter — June 2006

2006 Earth Heroes at School Are Celebrated




Teachers, students, staff and volunteers selected as 2006 Earth Heroes at Schools gathered for a group picture following the awards presentation on May 4. Visit the Earth Heroes at School [Web site](#) to view more photos of the event and to read descriptions of Earth Heroes at School projects.




Federal Way School District Goes Green

The Federal Way School District is the second district to become a King County Green School District. To reach this status, the district created and met goals in four resource conservation categories: Waste Reduction and Recycling, Energy Conservation, Environmental Purchasing, and Environmental Education. The district's Resource Conservation Manager, Ed Novak pictured above with Rob Van Orsow of the City of Federal Way and Dale Alekel of King County led the school district in setting, reaching, and often exceeding goals in each category.

The King County Green Schools Program, the City of Federal Way, and Puget


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2006 Technology Enterprise Summit

All Teachers & Students get a FREE Pentium 3 Desktop or Pentium 2 Laptop PC The Wilderness Technology Alliance (WTA) will hold its first annual student technology enterprise summit July 14th - 16th at Snoqualmie Pass, WA. All food, lodging, and course materials are covered through grant funding. In addition, all attendees will receive a P3 desktop or P2 laptop computer! For more information on the WTA, visit www.wildtech.org or email laugust@wildtech.org.

Sound Energy partnered to help the district reach its goal.

Below are just a few of the accomplishments of the Federal Way School District.

Action	Estimated annual savings
Retrofitted lighting for two schools.	\$23,000
Installed 161 vending machine misers to conserve energy.	\$16,100
Removed lights and ballasts from all vending machines.	\$805
Installed 365-day programmable thermostats in all 103 portables.	\$28,000
Added language to contracts giving preference to environmentally friendly products.	
Started to recycle bottles and cans in 22 schools.	\$5,000 in one school alone
Started to recycle printer cartridges in 10 schools.	
Distributed 320 classroom recycling containers. Placed over 2,000 stickers on recycling containers listing what can and cannot be recycled.	

Congratulations to the Federal Way School District!

Award Winning Green Teams!

As of May 15, 2006, the King County Solid Waste Division has recognized the following Green Teams for their efforts to reduce waste, help habitat in King County and make Earth Smart choices. In addition, Green Team leaders **Sara Esrick, Evergreen High School**, and **Kay Moilanen, Hazelwood Elementary** were recognized as [Earth Heroes at School](#).

The Arbor School – Gayle Holeton's outdoor education classes established a school-wide vermicomposting program for snack and lunch waste and incorporated the experience across the curriculum. Students built compost bins and learned about the role worms play in creating healthy soil.

Black Diamond Elementary – Every year Linda Reiter's fourth and fifth

Stewardship Projects Involve All Ages

Mrs. Miller's Class Cares!



"Mrs. Miller's class cares!" is the first sentence in an article by two of Jan Miller's second grade students at Fall City Elementary. (Students are pictured above getting ready to pick up litter along the Snoqualmie River.) Encouraged to think about the word stewardship, students decided to clean up litter around the school playing fields and along the Snoqualmie River. In addition to conducting weekly litter pick-ups, this Green Team decorated grocery bags in honor of Earth Day and wrote letters and summaries about their projects to the local paper, the principal, and the local grocer. Ms. Miller commented that "I found it enjoyable to see where I could dovetail the ideas of stewardship with the state essential learning requirements on writing." Team members received a Green Team Mini-Grant to purchase vests that identify members as they pick up trash. They also purchased extra trash cans for the public field adjacent to the school. In concluding their [article](#), students Dean Sanctis and Annie Hiebert wrote: "That is how we make our world a better place."

Kent School District Teachers Teach Peers

graders take on numerous environmental projects. This year, in addition to collecting the recycling, her students made posters and gave an assembly for the rest of the student body, presenting skits and songs to encourage recycling, reusing, and rethinking. They also are learning about and practicing water conservation and making a book of environmental poems.

Carnation Elementary – Becky Panesco's fifth grade Green Team mentored Elizabeth Wing's second grade Green Team in the creation of two worm bins that reduced snack and lunchtime waste at the school. The second grade class also designed and planted a garden in front of the school office. Students have become more active in seeking out environmental stewardship opportunities. They made posters for Earth Day and planted trees on Arbor Day.

Evergreen Academy – Becky Pilgrim's second grade Green Team started a worm bin for their lunchtime waste. Empowered by their conservation practices, the students now understand the connection between caring for their worms and caring for their world.

Fall City Elementary –Janis Miller's second grade Green Team picked up litter along the Snoqualmie River. (See related story and photo on stewardship projects.)

Holy Trinity Lutheran – Carol Cole's third and fourth grade class regularly pick up litter and conduct weekly "Green Lunch Days" where students reduce garbage by using reusable and recyclable containers.

Marvista Elementary – Sheila Hanson's third graders made posters to teach fellow students what and how to recycle and how recycling helps the environment. As a result, students notice when an item is misplaced and will move it to either the garbage can or the recycle bin as appropriate.

Rock Creek Elementary – Every year Kay Hoffman's third grade students promote habitat stewardship by picking up litter around the school and recycling and reusing materials in the classroom.

Sierra Heights Elementary – Michelle McLaughlin's third grade class made recycling posters that focused on contamination reduction. Students presented these posters to each class to increase awareness of proper recycling techniques. Kathy Wilson's third grade class created a worm bin habitat and studied how worms "recycle" different foods, and now have greater awareness of creative ways to recycle.

Southwood Elementary Magic Strings Program – LindaMadson's fifth graders set up a worm bin and have been using the compost on the school flower beds. The students are motivated about recycling and what they can do to make a difference for the environment.

Syre Elementary – Shelly Landshultz's sixth graders have been promoting school recycling by creating recycling commercials for school TV and giving



After attending the King County Hazards on the Homefront workshop last fall, Career Specialists Colleen Holmes, Pat James, Wendy Hurst, and Cynthia Noble from the Kent School District realized that all the district's Family and Consumer Science teachers would benefit from teaching their students this information. They received a mini-grant along with teacher materials to train fellow teachers from all four high schools in the district. In a two-hour class, teachers participated in lessons on identifying hazardous products, label reading, look-alike products, and safer alternatives which they will pass on to 1500 students each semester.

TJHS Students Promote Recycling "One Bin at a Time"



Members of TJHS DECA Club, Jenalyn Suico, Evan Stock, Khatera Bahadory, Spenser Adams, Luda Vlasenko and De'Djauna Simpson display their recycling program logo

Stephanie Kurrus and Connie Davolt have been working with their students to start recycling at Thomas Jefferson High School. While Ms. Kurrus's students focus on collection, Ms. Davolt's DECA students plan a series of promotional activities with rewards to encourage their peers to

speeches to every classroom in the school. Students created scripts, wrote speeches, and provided classrooms with tools to improve recycling. Recycling has increased with less contamination.

Professional Development Opportunities



Hazards on the Homefront FREE workshop for 4th-12th Grade Teachers

Wednesday, August 9, 2006, 8:00am-4:00 pm

Optional Half-Day Field Trip to the South Wastewater Treatment Plant, Thursday, August 10, 2006

Searching for real-life lessons that meet Grade Level Expectations in a fun, hands-on, and engaging manner? King County Solid Waste Division invites you to attend a FREE workshop on the personal and environmental health effects of hazardous household products. Teach your students to practice important skills such as critical thinking, reading for understanding, persuasive writing, inquiry, and communication. These real-life environmental topics relate to a wide range of classes, including science, health, fitness, and social studies.

You will learn:

- How to recognize hazardous household products
- What makes a product hazardous
- Ways in which we are exposed to hazardous products
- Experiments on how these products affect water quality
- How to dispose of products safely
- Fun, hands-on experiments and activities about safer alternatives
- How to integrate this information into your existing curriculum
- Project ideas that relate to water topics, plants, soils, and the scientific method

You will receive:

- Stipend upon completion of workshop objectives
- Free Hazards on the Homefront Teacher Lesson Guide with overheads
- Green Cleaning Kit filled with safer products for you to try
- Information about free follow-up classroom presentations and mini-grants

To register, please call Erin McGourty at 206-583-0655 or email workshops@triangleassociates.com. For more information, visit www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/education/hazwaste.asp

Clock hours or credit are available for a fee. Teachers who attend the one-day

improve recycling at the school. With assistance from the King County Green Schools Program and with a Green Team Mini-Grant to purchase recycled pens and t-shirts, students have been conducting skits, games, and classroom competitions to get the whole school involved. Students held a contest to design the new program logo and developed a slogan that now graces the "Recycle Patrol" t-shirts, pens, posters, and signs all over campus: "TJ Recycles, From the Many... Saving the World One Recycle Bin at a Time!" The Recycle Patrol rewards students that recycle with pens. Students that turn in their pizza boxes for proper disposal receive punch cards for free pizzas. The Recycle Patrol and DECA students plan to continue their work at the start of school in September.

Redmond Junior High Recycles

Teacher and Environment Club head Julie Lynd decided that a team approach to improving school recycling would be most effective at Redmond Junior High School. With the support of the principal, the custodian, and her fellow science teachers, Ms. Lynd is currently working with the 30 students in the Environment Club and 15 Transition students to educate the student body about proper recycling techniques and improve collection. Supported by the King County Green Schools Program and a Green Team Mini-Grant to purchase hallway recycling containers, the Environment Club is planning morning announcements, a recycling play, a lunch booth to promote recycling, and a competition among school pods to see who can recycle the most. Transition students will collect recycling from classrooms.

Recycling is the Theme of Redmond Elementary School's Art

workshop receive seven clock hours. Those also attending the August 18 field trip will receive an additional three clock hours or may apply for one credit (which will apply to autumn quarter 2005).

This is a wonderful workshop that students can learn from and feel it is something directly related to their lives. Very hands-on, too. -Eighth grade teacher

New On-line Resources for Teachers:

Hazardous Household Products Made Fun and Simple

Teachers can now download simple, quick and fun activities for classroom use in grades 4-12. Find out how to rid your yard of aphids, weeds and slugs without using pesticides by playing Toxic Free Bingo. What words are required by law to be on hazardous products? Concentration has the answer to that question and more. Need to get rid of old paint? Disposal lets you vote on the good and not-so-good options. Follow this link to find the new activities. www.govlink.org/hazwaste/schoolyouth/copy.htm

New Web Features and a New KCTV Show

From the Water and Land Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, come two delightful Web features and a new KCTV show that will surely inspire you to get in touch with nature, starting in your own back yard.



[Northwest Native Plant Landscaping Guide](#) - You may know that native plants are good for people and animals, but do you know which ones would thrive in your yard? Check out the new Northwest Native Plant Landscaping Guide. This interactive Web site allows visitors to browse through a database of more than 100 plants and photos, view or print beautiful sample landscaping plans and even create their own customized list that they can save,

email or print.



[The Groundwater Story Animated Video](#) - King County's Groundwater Protection Program, in coordination with Leaping Media and Seattle Public Schools, is pleased to unveil, "The Groundwater Story!" This animated video features lovable groundhogs singing and dancing the story of groundwater, where it comes from and why we need to protect it.

[Yard Talk: The new KCTV show featuring dirt simple tips on Natural Yard Care](#) -Yard Talk teaches viewers how to easily care for their yards and gardens in a way that's good for people, pets and the environment. The show is

Week

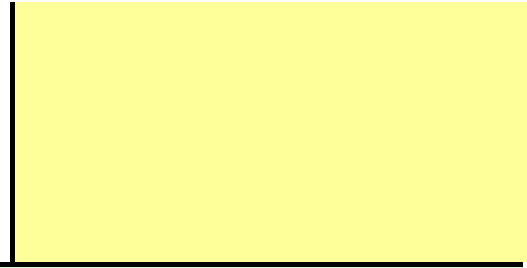


Redmond Elementary students made masks from cardboard and other reusable materials.

King County's *Earth Smart Adventures* assembly show inspired Redmond Elementary to devote its Art Week to recycled art projects. It was a great success, increasing the students' awareness about how waste affects our environment, and encouraging them to review consumption patterns in their families and take a more active role in decreasing waste.



hosted by Doug Rice and Greg Rabourn, resident gardening gurus of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks.



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